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\$2.99 U.S.
NOV 2001

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Atomic Dragon vs the X-Consters

PART 1: "ENTER THE DRAGON"

THE MOST PRESSING AT THE
MOMENT BEING WHAT'S FOR SUPPER.

THE UNIVERSE.
ENDLESS AND ENIGMATIC
- POSSESSED OF VAST,
UNFATHOMABLE SECRETS.

DINNER'S SERVED!
COME AND **GET** IT!

YOU... DON'T
MEAN...?

YEP!
MEATLOAF!

CHIRP?

WELL, THIS IS NICE.
WHAT'RE WE HAVING?

TREAT?

A REAL DELIGHT! I SLAVED
OVER THIS FOR HOURS, SO I'M
SURE I GOT IT RIGHT THIS TIME!

WELL, THIS ONE ISN'T QUITE
AS... CRUSTY BLACK AS USUAL.

UH-OH!

IT'S A NEW RECIPE!
SEE IF YOU CAN IDENTIFY
THE MAIN INGREDIENT!

THAT'D BE
MEAT, RIGHT?

RIGHT?!

ERR... DEFINE
'MEAT'.





CHESTER HAD NEVER FULLY UNDERSTOOD THE CANINE'S INTEREST IN THE CHARISMATIC KING OF THE MASKED WRESTLERS. STILL, IF DECK **LIKED** THE MASTER OF ROUGH-AND-TUMBLE WRESTLING ACTION, WHO WAS CHESTER TO PROTEST? AFTER ALL, WRESTLING WAS JUST A GAME. EVERYONE KNEW THAT. WHAT POSSIBLE **HARM** COULD THERE BE IN INDULGING HIS PARTNER?

I JUST HOPE YOU APPRECIATE WHAT I HAD TO GO THROUGH TO GET THESE TICKETS!

<CHUCKLE> OH, I'M SURE I CAN FIND SOME LITTLE WAY TO PROPERLY THANK YOU.

IF NOT, I CAN MAKE A FEW SUGGESTIONS!

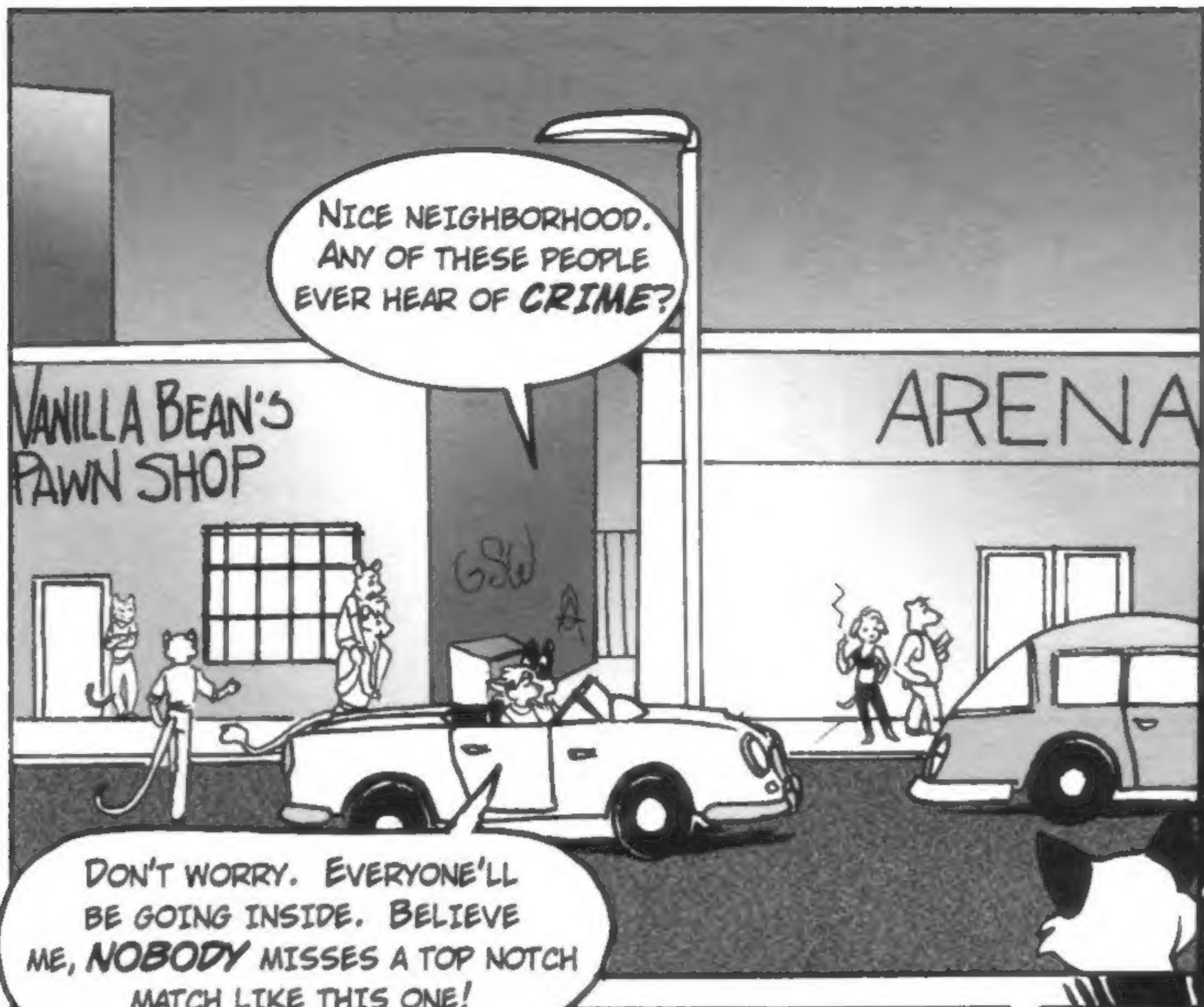
THOUGH HOW YOU CAN BE INTERESTED IN A MUSCLE BOUND LUNK LIKE **THAT**...!

<SNORT> YOU SHOULD TALK! ANYWAY, THE ATOMIC DRAGON'S MORE THAN JUST ANOTHER WRESTLER. HE'S A LEGEND. **NOBODY'S** BETTER AT A *GRAN TORNILLO. AND HIS FINISHING MOVE...

HEY, YOU'RE GOING TO HAVE A GOOD TIME, IN SPITE OF YOURSELF! RELAX!

WE'LL SEE.

* A FLYING BODYPRESS WITH A BODY TWIST



NICE NEIGHBORHOOD.
ANY OF THESE PEOPLE
EVER HEAR OF **CRIME**?

DON'T WORRY. EVERYONE'LL
BE GOING INSIDE. BELIEVE
ME, **NOBODY** MISSES A TOP NOTCH
MATCH LIKE THIS ONE!



JUST SIT BACK AND
ENJOY THE ATMOSPHERE!



<SNIFF-SNIFF>
IF I HAVE TO.



YOU WORRY TOO MUCH!
THE UNIVERSE'S ENTITLED TO GIVE
US JUST **ONE** QUIET NIGHT OFF!



WHAT NEXT, SUPERFAN?
PICK A SEAT?

NOT
EXACTLY.



THIS'S A ONCE IN
A LIFETIME CHANCE. I'M
GOING TO GET AN AUTOGRAPH.

MAYBE THIS ISN'T SUCH A GOOD IDEA, CHRIS...



RELAX!



IN AND OUT. WHAT COULD POSSIBLY GO WRONG?

DRESSING ROOMS
→



AHHH, I JUST KEEP GETTING STRONGER EVERY DAY! I TELL YOU, ARTURO, TONIGHT'S MATCH WILL BE A GLORIOUS MASSACRE!

MAYBE SO, BUT CAN WE MAKE IT A **LITTLE** MASSACRE? ELECTRICO IS FEELING QUEASY TONIGHT AND WANTED ME TO ASK IF YOU COULD HOLD BACK A LITTLE.



IT'S THAT SECOND STOMACH PROBLEM OF HIS, ISN'T IT?

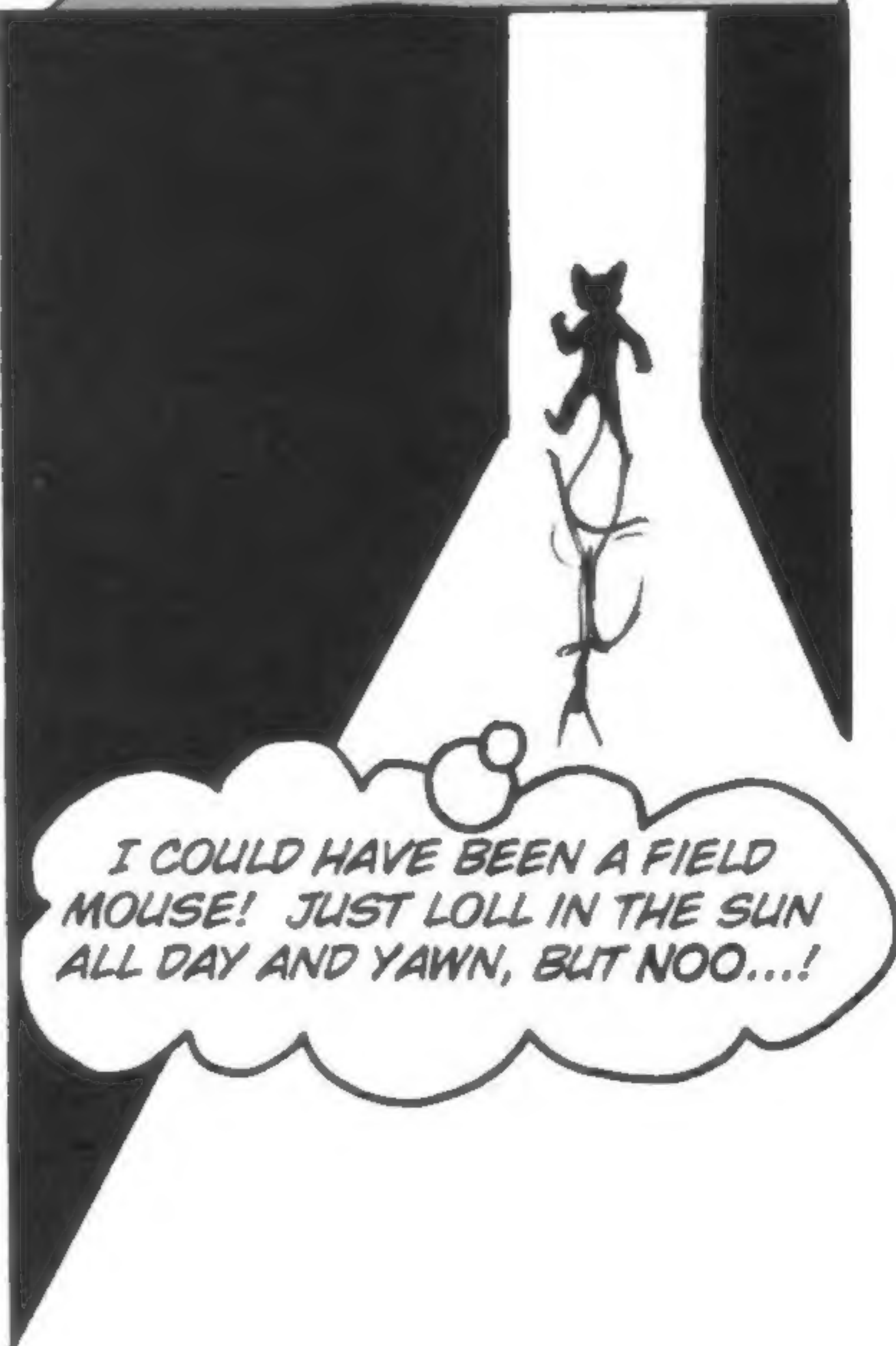


I KEEP **TELLING** HIM TO CUT BACK ON SPICY FOOD BEFORE A MATCH.



LITTLE ARTURO. ALWAYS WATCHING OUT FOR THE OTHER FELLOW, EH?







CONGRATULATIONS, SPORT.
I THINK THAT MAKES YOU THE
NEW CHAMP, BY A KNOCKOUT.

WHAT WAS THAT LITTLE SPEECH
ABOUT THE UNIVERSE GIVING
US A NIGHT OFF?

ATOMIC
DRAGON

NONONONNONO...

COME ON! M-MAYBE
IT ISN'T ALL THAT BAD!
MAYBE HE JUST TRIPPED
OR SOMETHING!

THERE GOES
YOUR AUTOGRAPH.

OH, MAN. HE'S OUT
LIKE A LIGHT!

HELP ME WITH HIM.
MAYBE WE CAN REVIVE HIM
AND GET OUT OF HERE BEFORE HE
FIGURES OUT WHAT HAPPENED.

OW! MY ACHING BACK!
HE WEIGHS A TON!

STAY CALM AND
LOOK FOR A GLASS OF
WATER OR SOME...

KNOCK-
KNOCK!



IN THAT MASK, NOBODY'LL KNOW THE DIFFERENCE. JUST TRY TO LOOK BULKY!

CHESTER, THIS IS NOT GOING TO WORK!



OMIC
AGON

Y-YES?



AH, DRAGON!
HOW GOOD OF YOU
TO SEE US ON SUCH
SHORT NOTICE!

I CAN EXPLAIN
EVERYTHING! IT WAS
AN ACCIDENT! WE...



WE WERE JUST
STRAIGHTENING UP
FOR COMPANY. ISN'T THAT
RIGHT, **DRAGON**?



AND **THIS** MUST BE LITTLE
ARTURO, YOUR MANAGER!
ANOTHER CELEBRITY! HOW
VERY **LUCKY** WE ARE!







WHAT IF HE'S NOT AS THICK AS THEY SAY? HE COULD REFUSE THE CHIEF!

OH, COME ON! THE MAN FIGHTS MONSTERS! HOW BRIGHT IS *THAT*? BESIDES, THERE'S THE LITTLE MATTER OF 40 UNPAID TRAFFIC TICKETS...



ER, "DRAGON"? CAN WE DISCUSS THIS IN THE HALLWAY? IT'S GETTING **STUFFY** IN HERE!

OHHHH!



FINE! FINE! THEN YOU WILL HELP US! SANCHEZ, GRAB THE DRAGON'S **BEAUTIFUL** JACKET!

BUT... BUT...



WE'VE PREPARED A SPECIAL HEADQUARTERS FOR YOUR EXCLUSIVE USE! WE'LL GO THERE NOW!



WHAT'S HAPPENING?

ATOMIC DRAGON

MY PLEASURE.

POLICE BUSINESS! THE DRAGON IS COMING WITH US!

GREAT! WONDERFUL! **WHY** DOESN'T ANYONE TELL ME THESE THINGS? OKAY, SOMEBODY WARM UP THE REPLACEMENT WRESTLER!



SO FAR WE HAVE NO CLEAR LEADS. DR. CAPRUCAL, A LOCAL SCIENTIST, HAS OFFERED HIS HELP.



YOU'LL MEET HIM LATER. NOW, WE'D BETTER GET STARTED.



AFTER YOU SETTLE IN, I'LL ASSIGN YOU A CAR AND DRIVER. YOU CAN GET STARTED AT ONCE.



WHAT'LL WE DO?



BUT THE CAR!

RELAX! WE CAN SEND FOR IT.



HERE WE ARE, DRAGON! THIS IS THE OLD POLICE GARAGE. BUT...

ONCE WE'RE ALONE, I **DITCH** THIS MASK! THEN WE'RE JUST PASSING FACES IN THE CROWD. HOPEFULLY!



...WE'VE FIXED IT UP JUST FOR YOU!







I SEE YOU'VE BEEN STUDYING SOME OF THE CASE FILES! MIND IF WE TAKE A LOOK?

OH? SORRY. I'D QUITE FORGOTTEN ABOUT IT. OF COURSE, MY BOY.



SO, DOCTOR...

AT THE MOMENT... I'M... NOT READY TO HAZARD A GUESS. WE'RE DEALING WITH A WHOLE NEW AREA OF SCIENCE HERE.



...WHAT DO YOU MAKE OF ALL THIS?

PERHAPS IN THE MORNING, ONCE I'VE ASSEMBLED MY FACTS. THESE THINGS TAKE TIME.

ACCORDING TO THE CHIEF, TIME IS THE ONE THING WE **DON'T** HAVE!

NOW, NOW, DRAGON. THE DOCTOR HAS A POINT. WE DON'T WANT TO RUSH INTO ANYTHING.

PRECISELY, YOUNG MAN. I ASSURE YOU I'LL DELIVER MY FINDINGS AS QUICKLY AS POSSIBLE. GOOD NIGHT.





OKAY, SHERLOCK.
WHAT WAS ALL
THAT ABOUT?

CLICK!

YOU'RE A PRETTY SHREWD JUDGE
OF CHARACTER, CHRIS. WHAT DID
YOU MAKE OF THE GOOD DOCTOR?



HMMPH. WELL, IF THIS WAS
A BAD MYSTERY NOVEL, HE'D BE
MY NUMBER ONE SUSPECT!



BUT HE'S TOO OBVIOUS
TO BE GUILTY. BESIDES, THE
CHIEF SEEMS TO TRUST HIM.

IN HIS POSITION,
HE'D PROBABLY TRUST
ANYONE!



QUESTION: WHY READ THE
FOLDER SO FAR FROM THE
ROOM'S ONE LIGHT? AND WHY
DIDN'T HE ANNOUNCE HIS
PRESENCE WHEN WE ARRIVED?
THEN THERE'S THIS...



SOMEONE'S BEEN TAKING
DETAILED NOTES.



THERE'S SOMEONE
OUT THERE!

TAP-TAP-TAP!

RIGHT, AND THE INK'S STILL
MOIST. EVERYTHING ELSE IN THE
FILE IS TYPED. I DON'T THINK
THIS PAGE BELONGS IN HERE.





I AM OFFICER GARVAS.
YOUR CAR IS WAITING.



WELL, IT'S RATHER LATE.
I DON'T THINK WE'LL NEED
YOU TONIGHT. HOW ABOUT WE
CALL YOU IN THE MORNING?





MAYBE WE'D BETTER CONCENTRATE ON LOCATING THEM DURING THE *DAY*...

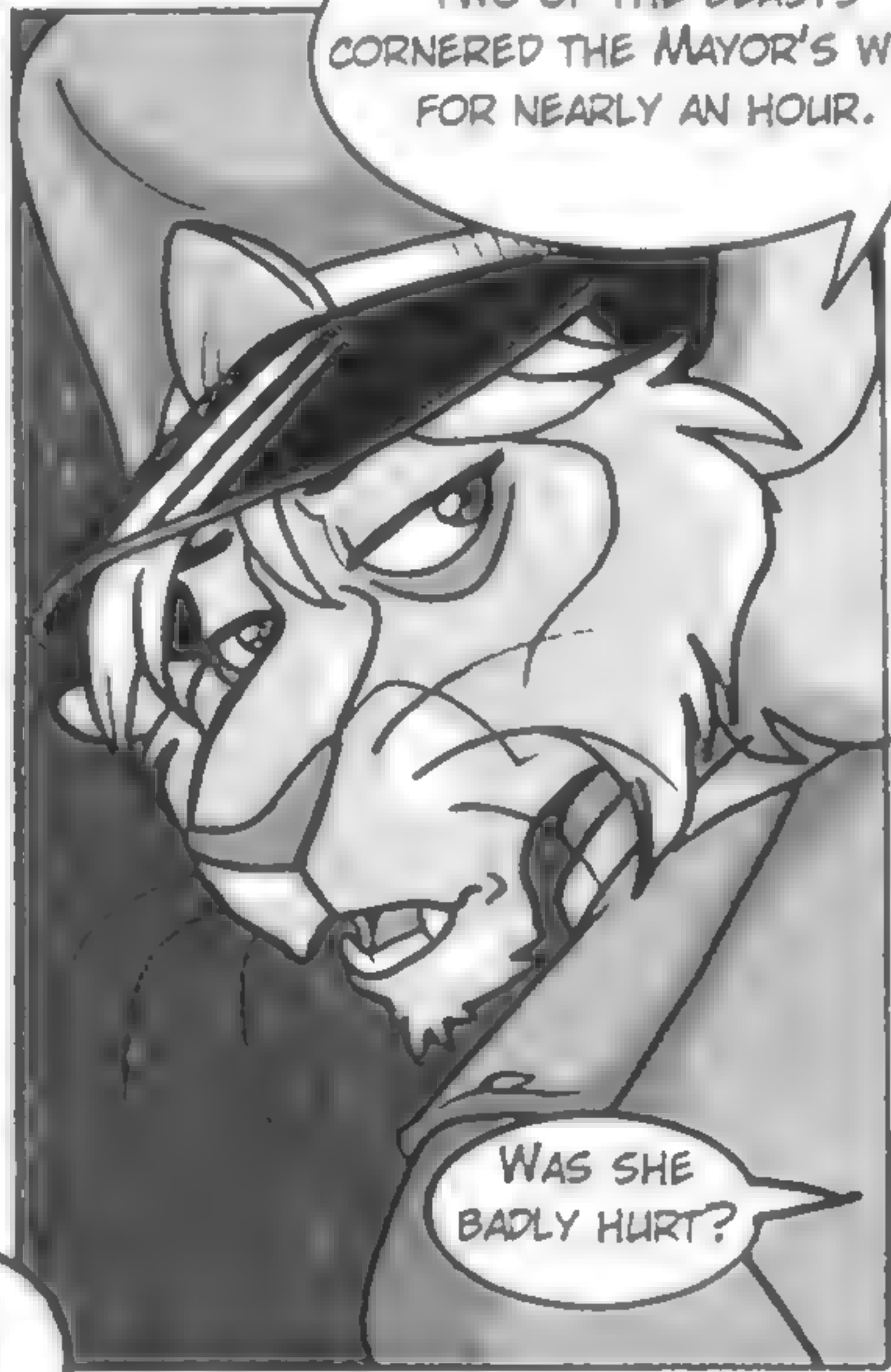
...WHEN THEY'RE DORMANT.

COME ON, HERO. THIS MIGHT BE OUR BIG CHANCE TO SNEAK AWAY!

DR. CAPRICAL GAVE US THE ADDRESS OF AN OLD FACTORY OUTSIDE THE CITY, WHERE THE MONSTERS HAVE BEEN SIGHTED. THE BEASTS ONLY COME OUT AT NIGHT, SO WE'D BETTER GET GOING.



THERE'S NO TIME TO WASTE. THE CHIEF'S UNDER A LOT OF PRESSURE FROM THE MAYOR.



TWO OF THE BEASTS CORNERED THE MAYOR'S WIFE FOR NEARLY AN HOUR.

WAS SHE BADLY HURT?



NO, THEY JUST WHEEDED HER RELENTLESSLY FOR A HANDOUT. WHEN YOU'RE RICH, YOU DON'T LIKE TO HEAR SUCH THINGS.



SHE'S STILL IN THERAPY.



STANDARD ISSUE?

MY OWN AUTO. WHEN IT COMES TO MONSTERS, I LIKE SOMETHING WITH A LITTLE PICK-UP TO IT. JUST IN CASE.

MAKES SENSE.





WE JUST TURN THE
LIGHT OFF FOR A FEW MINUTES,
SO GARVAS **THINKS** WE'RE INSIDE.
THEN WE HEAD BACK. BESIDES,
IT'S PROBABLY LOCKED TIGHT.

GUESS AGAIN.
THE DOOR'S NOT
EVEN CLOSED.

THAT'S
STRANGE.

HERE'S SOMETHING
EVEN STRANGER, CHRIS.

SOMEBODY'S BEEN
HERE RECENTLY. SOMEBODY
BAREFOOTED.

SEE
ANYTHING?

NO, BUT THAT
DOESN'T MEAN ANYTHING
IN THIS DARKNESS.





OHHHHH...

AH, YOU'RE
AWAKE! GOOD.

WELCOME TO MY HUMBLE WORKSHOP.
IT USED TO BE A BUSY FACTORY BUT
WHEN THE FIRM CLOSED, THE EQUIPMENT
WAS REMOVED. ALL BUT THIS HYDRAULIC
DRIVER. A HANDY TOOL...IN CERTAIN
CIRCUMSTANCES.

WHOOOM!!!

WHAA...?!?

WHEN THE RAILROAD TIE ABOVE YOU
SPLINTERS THROUGH, THE FULL WEIG
OF THE DRIVER WILL CRUSH YOU. I'
PREFER YOUR BEING OUT OF THE WA
BEFORE I LAUNCH MY MAIN ATTACK O
THE CITY. IT'S SO MUCH NEATER.

GOODBYE.

CHRIS, CAN'T YOU
DO ANYTHING?

CREAK...

WHOOOM!!!

YOU'D BETTER
HURRY!

IF I CAN ONLY **BEND**
THE FRAME! BLOCK THE
DRIVER! IT MIGHT SHAKE
THE MECHANISM APART!

CHRIS! THE
TIE'S GIVING!

IF YOU'RE GOING
TO DO SOMETHING, YOU'D
BETTER DO IT NOW!

CRACK!!

WHOOOM!!

I'M...
TRYING!!

